



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Central Montana Shooting Complex

2. Type of Proposed Action:

Finish construction of Sporting Clays Course

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

Central Montana Shooting Complex in Fergus County Montana

T15N, R18E Sec. 3: lots 1 & 2, S1/2NeI/4

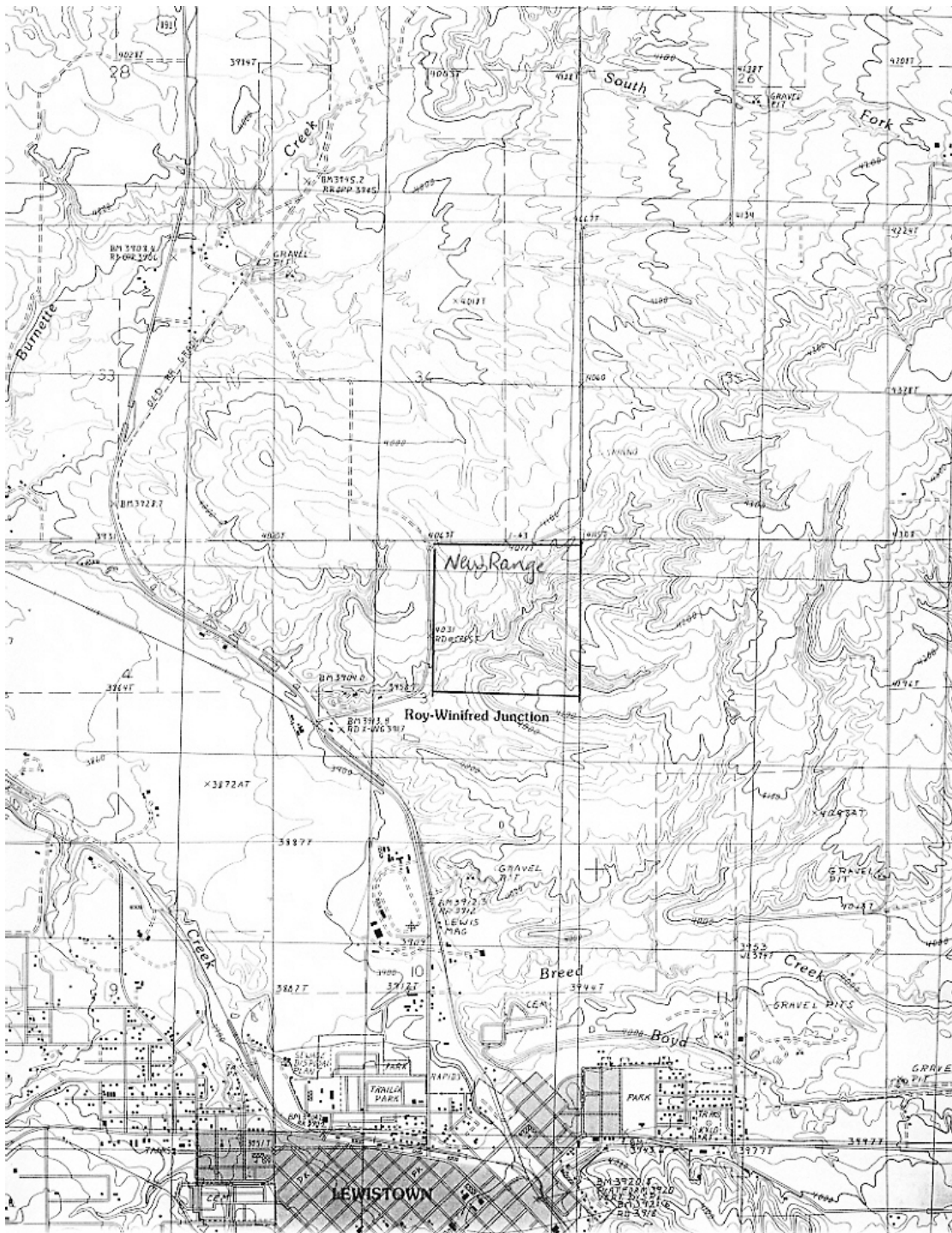
Approximately 2 miles North of Lewistown, MT

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

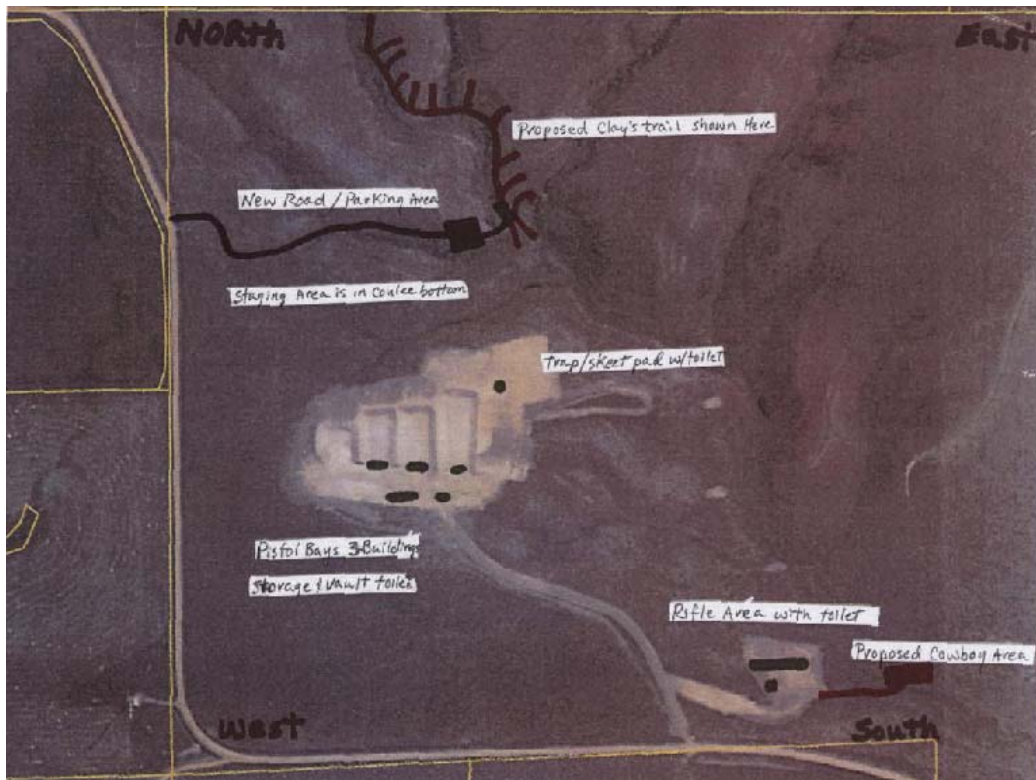
5. Need for the Action(s): There has been a need and a demand for Sporting Clays in central Montana. Recent surveys of shooters by CMSC indicated a very strong interest for more shotgun opportunities.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): Provide a sporting clays course to increase shotgun shooting opportunities and increase shotgun proficiency.

7. Maps and Supporting Figures:



Map 1 – Map location of range complex.



Map 2 Showing Range with proposed Sporting Clays Course/Trail (upper center) off the new road and parking area.

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

Range is approximately 14.2 acres developed within 160 acres of former agricultural land, and the project to build a new sporting clays course/trail is smaller area on the range, as indicated on Map 2.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

This is a smaller area within the range complex, which has had two Environmental Assessments for initial construction of the range in 2005 and another EA in 2007 for further improvements. In 2008 there had been \$50,000 in dirt work done for the planned sporting clays course. The 2008 project was not funded by Fish, Wildlife & Parks and subsequently did not require an additional EA. The area for the new sporting clays trail is shown on Map 2.

10. Description of Project:

To finish construction of the sporting clays course will require building the trail and the shooting stations for the course. This will include an 18" pipe across a small feeder coulee, and spreading gravel over the entire trail. Then portable sporting clay Promatic machines will be used at the various shooting stations. The Promatic machines are equipped with solar chargers, batteries, carts, covers and 160' release cables. These machines are designed to be moved around the course to alter the types of shooting situations from time to time. Purchase of the Promatic machines is part of the

funding for this proposal.

In Accordance With (IAW) contracts agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2010.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
N/A	

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$28,565.00

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

CMSC's currently has about 900 family memberships with many community users including Region Four game wardens, along with other law enforcement agencies. The Fergus County Extension Office (4-H Program), Fergus County Commissioners, Fergus County Sheriff's Department. Central Montana Handgunners, Central Montana Silhouette Club, Central Montana Rifle Club, and the Black Powder Club have all participated on the board of directors. The local Ducks Unlimited is working with CMSC to build a BB gun range. CMSC has made it known to all of the area law enforcement, youth organizations and hunters' education/safety programs all have free access to the facilities. The club has an active and growing Defensive Pistol League and a Cowboy Action group.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

The current proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Dale Pfau, P.O. Box 780, Lewistown, MT 59457, (406) 538-9408

16. Other Pertinent Information:

The Central Montana Shooting Complex has had environmental assessments (EAs) for previous FWP funded construction projects in 2005 and in 2007. This EA is a third in the proposed shooting complex master plan. Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance.

Resolution Date: April 28, 2009

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		#4
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		#9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams or ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands. All culverts planned and used on the range have been engineered and placed for 100 year rain storms.

4. All of the property has been hydroseeded with natural grasses after any soil disturbance.

9. This project uses no federal funds nor does it take place on state owned or controlled property; therefore, the Federal 106 Regulations and the State Antiques Act do not apply.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

5. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the standards of safety for the range participants and the public at large.

7. Range will provide year round controlled access and fulfils a need for a range to accommodate law enforcement training, hunter education, and public shooting.

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) to complete the building and set-up of a sporting clays course.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Sports Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active shooting sports complex without a sporting clays course.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered, **A** (Proposed Alternative) and **B** (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (**A**) nor the no action alternative (**B**) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** increasing shooting sports opportunities in Fergus County with the construction of a Sporting Clays course
- The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be not to install sound reduction blankets and wall and to continue on with present shooting activities and facilities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities would include shooting sports complex without the addition of a sporting clays course. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Dale Pfau, P.O. Box 780, Lewistown, MT 59457
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties owned by the Central Montana Shooting Complex of Lewistown, MT. The low impact routine activity proposed indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative. The history of the Central Montana Shooting Sports Complex providing safe shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) finish construction of a sporting clays course as outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: July 28, 2009

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

Announcement for EA comment will be published in the Lewistown News - Argus and on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website to allow an opportunity for public review. Additionally the EA will be available for review on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website.